

Since 1878 the church has had more than twenty dynamic pastors and ministers and many trustees and deacons who have served well over the years.

Inspirational choirs have sung praises for Bright Hopewell. Bright Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church has a glorious past of spirituality, perseverance, hard work, and determination. I have enjoyed each time I have worshiped at Bright Hopewell. It is by the Grace of God that it stands firm after all these years. With God's guidance the church looks forward to a brighter future.

I congratulate Bright Hopewell Baptist Church on their 133rd anniversary and wish the pastor, the Reverend Garland E. Pierce, and the congregation the best in the years to come.

HONORING CAPTAIN ROBERT J.
HILLERY

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable achievements and honorable military service of Captain Robert J. Hillery in the United States Marine Corps. I offer Captain Hillery my sincerest thanks for his eight years of dedicated service in protecting our nation and safeguarding its future.

The son of a fellow Marine, beginning his military career at the U.S. Naval Academy, Captain Hillery graduated in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. Upon graduating, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in May of 2003.

Following The Basic School and Logistics Officer Course, Captain Hillery was assigned to Truck Company, HQBN, 1st Marine Division in July of 2004. During this tour, he served as the H&S Platoon Commander during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) II-2 at Camp Blue Diamond in Ramadi. He and his platoon conducted hundreds of critical resupply convoys throughout the Al Anbar Province. Upon returning home from this deployment, he was re-assigned as the 3rd Platoon Commander and deployed again during OIF III-2 in Haditha while being attached to 3rd Battalion 1st Marines. Following his second deployment, Captain Hillery served as the Commander of the Remain Behind Element and Company Executive Officer for Truck Company.

In June of 2007, he transferred to Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD), San Diego where he served as the Assistant Operations Officer for three months, Range Company Executive Officer for nine months, and H&S Company Commander for 25 months.

Among his many achievements, Captain Hillery's personal decorations include the Navy Commendation Medal with Gold Star and Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Furthermore, I applaud his efforts to use his passion for distance running to raise \$43,000 for the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund. Having completed 3 ultra marathons, 25 marathons, 18 half marathons, 2 Ultraman triathlons, 3 Ironman distance triathlons including the world championship in Kona, HI, in 2009, along with numerous shorter distance races—there is no question that Captain Hillery's triumphs are nothing short of remarkable. Accordingly, in

August of 2010, Captain Hillery was selected for the distinguished recognition of Marine Corps Athlete of the Year.

I offer Captain Hillery my congratulations for his accomplishments and sincere gratitude for his military service. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to please join me in honoring all the brave men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces, and the admirable achievements of Captain Robert Hillery.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, last week I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes 250, 251, and 253 on April 8, 2011. If present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall votes 250, 251, and 253.

HONORING GERRY HOUSE

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gerry House on his induction into the National Association of Broadcasters' Hall of Fame. Gerry's contributions to broadcasting are celebrated in the country music industry. His talent has made a lasting impact on country music and radio.

For over three decades, Tennesseans have eagerly awakened to Gerry's voice on his early morning radio show, Gerry House and the House Foundation. Nashville radio loves Gerry House.

Not only a radio personality, Gerry is also a gifted songwriter. His songs have been recorded by George Strait, Reba McEntire, LeAnn Rimes, Brad Paisley, Randy Travis and Pam Tillis among others. He has further released two comedy albums, *The Cheater's Telethon* in 1990 and *The Bull* in 1992.

Gerry's resume does not stop there. He has been voted Billboard's Radio Personality of the Year seven times and Country Music Association Personality four times. He is also a member of the Country Music DJ Hall of Fame, has won Radio & Records Country Format Personality of the Year multiple times and is a recipient of the NAB Marconi Radio Award for Large Market Air Personality of the Year.

On April 12, 2011 in Las Vegas, Gerry will become the first country radio personality to be inducted into the NAB Broadcasting Hall of fame.

Thank you Gerry House for bringing a smile to countless faces each and every morning. You truly are a staple of Nashville's culture.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Mr. SIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe National Minority Health Awareness

Month and to spread awareness on the disparities between the health of minorities in the United States and the general population.

Nationally, minority groups are disproportionately affected by many health conditions and diseases, many of which are preventable.

For example, minority groups have higher rates of infant mortality, low birth weight babies, and HIV/AIDS.

African Americans, in particular, suffer disproportionately from such chronic conditions as heart disease, stroke and diabetes.

Similar disparities exist between other minorities such as the Hispanic populations.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, for example, reports that Latinos are twice as likely to die from diabetes.

Eliminating the causes of similar health and healthcare disparities must remain a priority in this Congress.

Additionally, we must continue to raise awareness of the need to improve the health of racial and ethnic minority populations across America and to develop health policies and programs that will help eliminate health disparities.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR PAY ACT OF 2011

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the 1963 Equal Pay Act (EPA), the first of the great civil rights statutes of the 1960s, was successful for close to 20 years, but it is too creaky with age to be useful today. It is long past time to amend the EPA to reflect the new workforce in which women work almost as much as men. Every year, Representative ROSA DELAURO (D-CT) and I, along with scores of other Members of Congress, introduce the Paycheck Fairness Act, to amend the EPA to make its basic procedures equal to those used in other anti-discrimination statutes. I was an original co-sponsor of, and attended the signing ceremony at the White House for, the 2009 Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which further strengthens the EPA by restoring its original interpretation. However, the Fair Pay Act of 2011 (FPA), which Senator TOM HARKIN and I have introduced in prior sessions of Congress, picks up where the EPA and the Ledbetter Act leave off, by taking on workplace gender discrimination in which gender-influenced wages leave the average female worker without any remedy. I have long pressed for passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act and the FPA, based on my own experience as the first female chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), when President Jimmy Carter moved the EPA and other civil rights statutes under the EEOC's jurisdiction, as part of a historic reorganization.

Along with my indispensable Senate partner, TOM HARKIN, I again introduce the FPA on behalf of the average female worker, who is often first steered to, and then locked into, jobs with wages that are deeply influenced by the gender of those who have traditionally held such jobs. Much of the wage inequality women experience today is because of employer-steering and because of deeply rooted wage stereotypes, which result in wages being